

We claim:

1. A method of conducting a meeting comprising the steps of
  - A. Notifying potential meeting attendees of said meeting, said notification including a notice that complies with any applicable requirements, an agenda, and a digital certificate that is sufficient to authorize their attendance at an electronic meeting space reserved for said meeting;
  - B. Providing said electronic meeting space;
  - C. Checking the digital certificate of any person seeking admission to said electronic meeting space and only admitting persons having an appropriate digital certificate;
  - D. Monitoring the attendance in said electronic meeting space and any associated in-person meeting space and when a quorum of attendees is reached, calling said meeting to order;
  - E. Providing an orderly electronic discussion among the persons in attendance at the meeting; and
  - F. Delivering, collecting, and tabulating encrypted electronic ballots to those persons attending the meeting electronically.

2. A system for conducting a virtual meeting comprising

[a] a computer having:

associated memory and processing means for executing at least one

program from said associated memory,

5 at least one communication link that can send electronic signals to, and

receive electronic signals from at least one remote user

said at least one program including a meeting hosting program that

receives instructions from users logged onto said computer and

transmits such instructions to other users concurrently logged

10 onto said computer,

said at least one program including a authentication evaluating program,

and

said processing means executing said authentication evaluating program

to enable said computer to evaluate the whether a remote user

15 seeking access to said computer is authorized to have such

access.

3. A system according to claim 2 further comprising:

a means for providing any authenticated users logged on to said

computer with proceedings from at least one physical meeting  
space concurrent with said virtual meeting.

4. A system according to claim 3 in which said means for providing users with proceedings includes at least one of the group consisting of a camera means and a
- 5 microphone means.